

Eligibility Requirements



To be eligible for DCFS' Housing Advocacy Program, you must be eligible for either of the two programs described below.

Norman Services

The Department of Children and Family Services has developed services to assist families who have a child who is in danger of being placed in, or cannot return home from, DCFS custody due to an issue related to poverty. Norman Services offers both cash assistance and a housing advocacy program. You can obtain more information on Norman Services from the Norman Services Brochure (*CFS 1050-37*) which you can obtain from your child welfare worker or your housing advocate.

Youth Housing Assistance Program

The Youth Housing Assistance Program (YHAP) assists youth under 21 years old that are aging out of, or have aged out of, DCFS care obtain and maintain adequate housing. YHAP offers both cash assistance and a housing advocacy program. You can obtain more information on YHAP from the Youth Housing Assistance Program Brochure (*CFS 1050-35*) which you can obtain from your child welfare worker or housing advocate.

Housing Advocacy Program

Agency _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Housing Advocacy Worker

Name _____
Phone _____

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

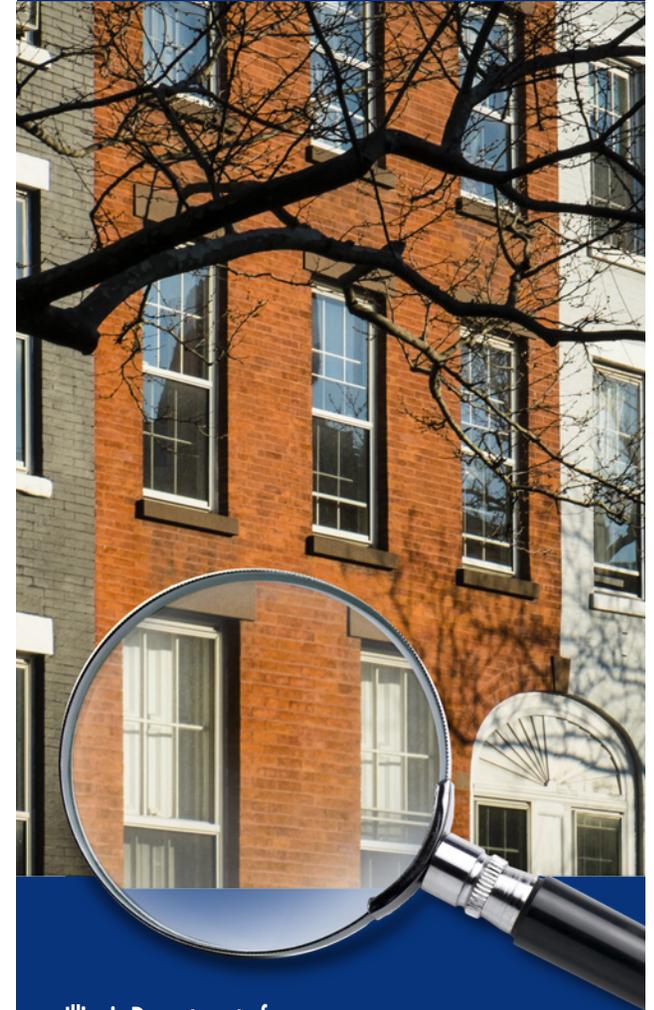
312.814.6800

www.DCFS.illinois.gov



Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
DCFS #481 – Mar 2017 – 500 copies
CFS 1050-38-3 – Rev. 2/17

HAP Housing Advocacy Program



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

HAP Services

DCFS created the housing advocacy program (HAP) to assist clients find and maintain adequate housing. HAP provides a housing advocate to assist Norman Certified families and Youth Housing Assistance Program clients obtain housing. HAP workers can provide the following assistance:



Crisis Assistance

Your HAP worker is familiar with many of the agencies that can provide assistance for clients in crisis. The programs that are available to assist clients differ

from community to community. These programs may include:

- Emergency overnight shelter
- Domestic violence shelter and counseling
- Emergency food and clothing



Information and Consultation

Your HAP worker may be able to help you find housing. If necessary, your HAP worker can prepare you to meet with

prospective landlords to help you present yourself in a manner that will increase your chances of being approved. Your HAP worker keeps listings of apartments in your area. While housing in most parts of the state is expensive, your HAP worker will search for some of the less expensive housing opportunities as well as subsidized housing, when it is available. Many landlords in the area have already worked with your HAP worker.

Help Obtaining Housing



The primary responsibility of your HAP worker is to help you find housing. We recommend that you do as much of the housing search on your own as you are able. Some landlords

are more confident with clients that apply for housing on their own. However, your housing advocate can provide extra assistance, including visiting prospective landlords with you, when needed. When necessary, your HAP worker may help provide transportation to view apartments.

Applying for Subsidized Housing



In most communities, subsidized housing is very scarce. Most have long waiting lists. Still it is important that you apply for all appropriate subsidized housing opportunities. If you don't want

or need the subsidized housing when it becomes available, you can always turn it down at a later time. Your HAP worker can inform you of the subsidized housing opportunities in your area.

Information on Tenants Rights and Responsibilities

Your HAP worker can provide you with information on tenants' rights and obligations. Your HAP worker can work with you before and after you obtain housing to help you be the best tenant you can be. Your HAP worker can also inform you of your rights as a tenant. Your HAP worker can also help you develop a budget to help you spend your income wisely.



Follow-Up Services

Your HAP worker may visit you after you have moved into your new home to ensure that you are still stable. Your HAP worker may also stay in contact with you for a few months to see if there is any assistance they can provide you. It is important that you keep in touch with your HAP worker at this time and be honest with them about any problems that you are having and any services that you need. If you are having trouble with your landlord, it is important that you tell your HAP worker.

Referrals to Community Resources

Finally your HAP worker can provide you with information about services that are available in your community. The programs that assist people in crisis that are available differ from community to community. These programs may provide the following assistance:

- Food and clothing
- Legal services
- Employment training
- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Crisis intervention programs
- Local Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Programs
- Public aid, food stamps and other government programs